

## KIDNEWS

# Learn a secret language to share with your friends

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Special to the Tribune

*Published March 7, 2006*

Need a special language so no one will understand you and your friends? Forget Pig Latin. And don't even bother making up random words--you'll never remember what "frimfram" or "spillunkle" is supposed to mean.

Instead, try learning a bit of sign language. "It can be a secret language between you and your friends," says Rachel Coleman, the co-founder and host of "Signing Time!," which airs at 6:30 a.m. Sundays on WTTW-Ch. 11 and teaches families how to sign.

Coleman learned sign language when her daughter Leah was born deaf. Now 9, Leah signs on the show with her cousin Alex, 7, and her younger sister Lucy, 6.

Besides being a cool second language to learn, Coleman says sign language can help kids with their spelling tests at school. "Use finger spelling to practice your spelling words," Coleman says.

Finger-spelling words has helped Leah ace her tests. "She's an incredible speller. She always gets 100 on her spelling tests," Coleman says.

Leah is fluent in sign language, but kids don't have to be experts to have fun signing. Coleman says some schools have sign language clubs where kids play games like silent bingo.

Kids can download silent bingo sheets and play online signing games at [SigningTimeKids.org](http://SigningTimeKids.org). Want to buy one of the show's nine DVDs? They're available online at [SigningTimeKids.com](http://SigningTimeKids.com) or by calling 801-533-0444.